

FIRST CALL FOR PROJECT PROPOSALS FOR CONSERVATION IN THE ECUADORIAN AMAZON BASIN

1. About the Amazon Biocorridor Fund (BCA Fund)

The Amazon Biocorridor Fund is a conservation trust fund created to receive and manage financial resources from the debt-for-nature swap carried out by the Republic of Ecuador in partnership with The Nature Conservancy (TNC), the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC), and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB); aimed at contributing to the fulfillment of Ecuador's national commitments to conservation, biodiversity, and climate change in the Ecuadorian Amazon basin. The Fund channels resources to support initiatives that generate verifiable environmental and social outcomes, guided by principles of transparency, accountability, impact, and territorial sustainability.

In this context, the BCA Fund is launching its **First Call for Grants** as a mechanism to finance projects aligned with the strategic objectives of the Amazon Biocorridor Program and the conservation commitments undertaken by the Republic of Ecuador within the framework of the debt-for-nature swap transaction for the Ecuadorian Amazon.

Sections of this call for proposals:

- Objective of the call
- Geographic Scope of Funding
- Funding Priorities for This Call
- Eligible Applicants
- Grant Categories, Co-funding, and Exclusions
- Eligibility Criteria
- Application Process and Proposal Evaluation
- Call for Proposals (Timeline)
- Appendices

More information on our website: [Amazon Biocorridor Fund](#).

2. Objective of the Call for Proposals

To fund projects that contribute effectively and verifiably to the conservation of biodiversity, ecological connectivity, and sustainable development in the Ecuadorian Amazon basin, in alignment with the Conservation Commitments undertaken by the Republic of Ecuador for the Amazon Biocorridor.

3. Geographic Scope of Funding

The geographic scope is limited to the Amazon Biocorridor, which encompasses the Ecuadorian Amazon basin—defined as the hydrographic and ecological system comprising the vast network of rivers that drain into the Amazon River, including not only the Amazonian lowlands but also the mountainous areas and foothills of the Eastern Andes. This area encompasses interconnected ecosystems that regulate the water cycle, biodiversity, and the regional climate.

You can view the geographic scope of the Ecuadorian Amazon basin in the [Geovisor](#): Also available in [Annex 6 of the Grants Manual](#).

4. Funding Priorities for This Call for Proposals

In accordance with the Conservation Commitments undertaken by the Republic of Ecuador for the Amazon Biocorridor, the BCA Fund will prioritize funding for proposals that contribute, directly and verifiably, to the following areas, in this order of priority:

- a) Support compliance with the Conservation Commitments made by the Republic of Ecuador for the Amazon Biocorridor. ([Annex 7](#))
- b) Support the implementation of activities related to the Amazon Biocorridor.
- c) Support the sustainable development of the municipalities, communities, towns, and indigenous peoples inhabiting the Ecuadorian Amazon;
- d) Support the management of Ecuador's National System of Protected Areas, as well as other conservation or protected areas located in the Ecuadorian Amazon, duly recognized by the National Environmental Authority; and
- e) Contribute to sustainable development, conservation, and climate change mitigation or adaptation in the Ecuadorian Amazon.

Across the board, all proposals must incorporate a gender and human rights perspective, promoting effective participation, equity, and respect for individuals and communities, with special attention to those in vulnerable situations.

5. Eligible Applicants

The following public and private sector entities are eligible to apply for a grant from the BCA Fund:

Public-sector entities:

- Agencies and departments of the Executive Branch.
- Entities that are part of the decentralized autonomous system¹.
- Agencies and entities created to provide public services or to carry out economic activities undertaken by the State.
- Legal entities established by legislative act of the decentralized autonomous governments for the provision of public services².
- Universities, academic institutes, and research centers.

Private-sector entities:

- Civil society organizations (CSOs) legally incorporated in the country³.
- For-profit legal entities.
- Universities, academic institutes, and research centers.

Proposals submitted by public- and private-sector applicants must comply with the guiding principles and technical eligibility criteria for projects.

¹ Article 28 of the Organic Code on Territorial Organization, Autonomy, and Decentralization (COOTAD) establishes that **the entities comprising the decentralized autonomous system** are public-law entities with legal personality and political, administrative, and financial autonomy, and include: a) provincial governments; b) metropolitan governments; c) municipal governments; and d) rural parish governments.

² For the purposes of this document, **“public legal entities created by Decentralized Autonomous Governments”** shall mean those established by a legislative act in accordance with the COOTAD, possessing legal personality under public law, and intended to provide public services or manage their own areas of jurisdiction, such as public enterprises, associations of municipalities, and consortia.

³ This includes organizations of indigenous peoples and nationalities.

6. Grant Categories, Co-financing, and Exclusions

In order to address the diversity of initiatives and actors that contribute to the fulfillment of the BCA Fund's strategic objectives, three categories of grants are established, differentiated by the maximum amount of funding and the duration of implementation.

Table 1: Grant Categories

Category	Amount	Duration	Co-financing ⁴
Small	Up to US\$100,000	Up to 24 months	Not required (but encouraged, with at least 5% in-kind).
Medium	From US\$100,001 to US\$500,000	Up to 36 months	Minimum co-financing equivalent to 10% in in-kind or cash.
Large Grant	More than US\$500,000	Up to 48 months	Minimum co-financing equivalent to 25% in kind or cash.

6.1. Exclusions (Ineligible Activities)

The BCA Fund will not consider proposals that are intended to be used directly or indirectly for any of the following purposes:

- Operating or administrative expenses of ministries, departments, or agencies of the Republic of Ecuador or the government of any other country, unless the beneficiaries of government agencies or the direct or indirect costs of project implementation are in addition to existing government budgets;
- Activities on the exclusion list of the BCA Fund's Environmental and Social Management System ([for more details, see Annex 2 of the SGAS](#));
- Debts and provisions for losses;
- Projects related to political campaigns and/or political propaganda;
- Activities that contradict the objectives of the BCA Program and Fund, specifically those that undermine efforts toward the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, ecosystem resilience, and a sustainable bioeconomy within the BCA management model⁵.
- Activities prohibited by the Constitution of the Republic, international instruments to which Ecuador is a signatory, and national laws (currently in force);
- Any other use that is inconsistent with the purpose, vision, mission, and/or values of the BCA Fund, as determined by the BCA Fund's Board of Directors.

⁴ The BCA Fund promotes **co-financing** as a strategy to amplify the impact of resources allocated to grants; this allows the BCA Fund's contributions to be supplemented by financial or in-kind contributions from applicants and strategic partners, ensuring the sustainability of the grants awarded by the BCA Fund.

⁵ The Amazon Biocorridor (BCA) is a **conservation management model that impacts the Ecuadorian Amazon**. Its vision for 2035 is to achieve a connected and resilient Amazon where nature helps society thrive, sustaining the livelihoods and culture of local communities and contributing to climate regulation.

7. Eligibility Criteria

The criteria to be considered for the evaluation and selection of concept notes and full project proposals will include, at a minimum, the following:

- a) **Relevance and Strategic Alignment (15% weighting):** Assesses the extent to which the project aligns with the BCA Fund's objectives, principles, and priority areas; it also evaluates the project's direct contribution to fulfilling the Conservation Commitments undertaken by the Republic of Ecuador.
- b) **Expected Impact/Results (20% weighting):** Assesses the project's contribution to the conservation, restoration, and sustainable development of the Amazon, considering relevant, measurable, and sustainable results. It evaluates the adequate management of environmental and social impacts and risks, including the participation of indigenous peoples and communities, a gender perspective, and sustainable livelihoods, as well as SMART indicators and clear means of verification.
- c) **Technical Feasibility (20% weighting):** Assesses the project's feasibility by considering the soundness of the methodological approach, its suitability to the local and cultural context, and available capacities. It analyzes the coherence between the problem, objectives, activities, results, and indicators, as well as the clarity of the implementation plan, timeline, and the adequate identification of risks and mitigation measures.
- d) **Implementation Capacity (10% weighting):** Evaluates the experience of the organization and the proposed team in similar projects, as well as their technical, administrative, and financial capacity to manage the grant. It considers compliance with legal and statutory requirements, the existence of accountability and transparency mechanisms, and the capacity for monitoring, evaluation, and reporting of results.
- e) **Risk Management (10% weighting):** Evaluates the appropriate identification of environmental and social risks associated with the activities; in the Concept Note, Tools 1 and 2 of the Environmental and Social Management System (SGAS) must be completed, and if the project advances to Phase II (Full Proposal), Tool 3 of the ESMS must be submitted, which will assess the definition of clear and relevant measures to address, manage, or mitigate identified risks.
- f) **Sustainability (5%):** Assesses the project's ability to maintain its results over time through financial, technical, and institutional strategies, as well as the strengthening of local capacities. It also considers co-financing commitments or complementary contributions, whether in cash or in kind.
- g) **Replicability and Scalability (5%):** Evaluates how the proposed projects are sustainable and can be scaled up or replicated.
- h) **Budget (15%):** Evaluates the consistency and technical and financial justification of project costs, taking into account market prices and the efficient use of resources.

For more information, please refer to [the Grants Manual](#), Section 7, "Technical Eligibility Criteria for Projects."

8. Application Process and Proposal Evaluation

Each lead applicant may submit up to one application per grant category. The submission of proposals will take place in two phases:

Phase 1 - Concept Note: All proposals, whether submitted by public- or private-sector applicants and regardless of the grant category, must first submit a concept note that complies with the established format and procedure.

Applicants must complete Tool 1: “Exclusion Checklist” of the Environmental and Social Management System (SGAS) to confirm that the proposed activities are not included on the BCA Fund’s exclusion list or list of ineligible activities.

The documentation that must be submitted to the BCA Fund during this phase is as follows:

- Administrative and financial documentation—see [Annex 1A](#)
- Concept Note Template—see [Annex 2 of the Grant Manual](#)
- ESMS Tool 1; see [ESMS Tool 1](#)⁶

Phase 2 – Full Proposal: Following the review and approval of the concept notes from Phase 1, the BCA Fund will request that preselected applicants submit a full proposal.

Additionally, proposers who advance to this phase must complete Tool 2: “Environmental and Social Assessment Questionnaire and Risk Categorization” and Tool 3: “Environmental and Social Action Plan – PAAS,” of the Environmental and Social Management System (SGAS), and, as applicable, the requirements set forth in the Protocol for Guided Consultation with a Consent Agreement ([Annex 5 SGAS](#)).

The documentation that must be submitted to the BCA Fund during this phase is as follows:

- Administrative and financial documentation—see [Annex 1B](#)
- Complete Proposal Template; see [Annex 3 of the Grant Manual](#). It is important to note that this annex serves as the reference format for the proposal; the complete proposal must be submitted exclusively via the link sent to your registered email address by logging into the online platform.
- SGAS Tools 2 and 3. These tools must be completed within the online platform.
- [Declaration of Conflict of Interest](#)

Proposals **submitted** to the BCA Fund will be evaluated in the following sequential stages:

- **Administrative and Compliance Review:** The BCA Fund team will verify that the proposal aligns with the call for proposals’ priorities, is submitted by an eligible applicant, does not include ineligible activities, has been submitted in full and on time, and complies with the established budgetary criteria. If necessary, the Fund may request corrections or disqualify the proposal for justified reasons⁷. At this stage, the procedures of **the Environmental and Social Management System (SGAS)** are applied (for more information on the [SGAS](#)).
- **Technical Evaluation:** Proposals that pass the administrative phase will be evaluated individually by the members of the BCA Technical Committee ([Annex 1](#)), based on technical, strategic, and impact criteria.
- **Due Diligence and Final Decision:** Proposals will undergo a process of legal, financial, and administrative due diligence. Based on these findings, the BCA Fund’s Board of Directors will make the final approval decision.

⁶ Any issues identified by the BCA Fund that organizations need to address must be resolved within 5 business days of being notified of the Concept Note’s preselection.

⁷ Issues identified by the BCA Fund that require correction must be addressed by the organizations within 5 business days of being notified of the selection of the complete proposal.

- The BCA Fund will inform both selected and non-selected applicants, in writing, of the decisions adopted by the BCA Fund's Board of Directors.

Please note that the project's administrative expenses **may not exceed 15% of the total grant amount**, in order to ensure that the majority of the funds are allocated to outcomes and impacts in the local community. Eligible expense categories are detailed in [Annexes 2⁸](#) and [3](#) of the Grant Manual.

G. Call for Proposals

Public and private sector entities are invited to submit a concept note using the template provided [here](#).

Organizations that advance to the second phase will be invited to submit their full proposal. To do so, they will be notified via the email address registered by the applicant organization, which will include a unique link to submit their full proposal through the online platform.

Concept notes **must be submitted no later than May 26, 2026, by 11:5G p.m. (Ecuador time)**. Hard copies are not required. Submission of a concept note does not create any rights, legitimate expectations, or funding commitments on the part of the BCA Fund.

Complete proposals **must be submitted no later than September 18, 2026, by 11:5G p.m. (Ecuador time)**. Hard copies are not required. The submission of a complete proposal does not create any rights, legitimate expectations, or funding commitments on the part of the BCA Fund.

Applicant organizations are asked to carefully read the terms and conditions of this call for proposals before beginning to draft their concept notes, as set forth in this document and detailed in the Grant Award Procedures Manual and its seven (7) Annexes (find the documentation [here](#)).

If you need more information about the Amazon Biocorridor Fund (BCA) and this call for proposals, please visit the Amazon Biocorridor Fund website:

- **[Calls for Proposals – Amazon Biocorridor Fund](#)**

If you have specific questions, applicants may contact the Amazon Biocorridor Fund team at the following email address: info@fondobca.org

G.1. Call for Proposals Timeline

The following timeline sets out the key dates for this Call for Proposals. The Amazon Biocorridor Fund may adjust the timeline, when necessary, through official communication via its institutional channels, ensuring the principle of equal treatment among applicants:

⁸ Review Annex 2 "Concept Note Template, Section C. Project Budget"

TIMELINE*	
ACTIVITIES	DATES
Launch of the Call for Proposals	April 10, 2026
Virtual Information Sessions – Phase I (Letter of Concept)	April 21, 23, 28, 30, 2026 May 5, 7, 12, 14, 19, 2026 Time: 10:00 a.m.
Deadline for submitting concept notes	May 26, 2026 11:59 p.m. (Ecuador Time)
Notification to shortlisted proposers (Email)	August 18, 2026
Informational Phase II Virtual - (Full Proposal)	August 25, September 1, 8, and 15, 2026 Time: 10:00 a.m.
Deadline submission complete proposals	September 18, 2026 11:59 p.m. (Ecuador Time)
Final project selection and notification	November 2026 **
Start of grant awards	January 2026***

* Schedule updated and approved by the BCA Fund Board of Directors on June 30, 2026.

**Estimated date, subject to confirmation by the BCA Fund Board of Directors.

***Reference date, contingent upon the signing of the grant agreement and fulfillment of the prerequisites established by the BCA Fund

10. Appendices

For the purposes of this Call for Proposals, the appendices are organized as follows:

10.1. Documents to be reviewed by the applicant to qualify for BCA Fund Grants

Applicants must review and comply with the following documents, which form an integral part of the regulatory and operational framework of this Call for Proposals, and whose content must be known and observed:

- **PROCEDURAL MANUAL FOR THE AWARD OF GRANTS**
 - [Appendix 1: Guidelines of the Amazon Biocorridor Technical Committee](#)
 - [Appendix 2: Phase 1 Form: Concept Note Template](#)
 - [Appendix 3: Phase 2 Format: Complete Proposal Template](#)
 - [Appendix 4: Template for Technical and Financial Reports](#)
 - [Appendix 5: Standard Template for Grant Agreements](#)
 - [Appendix 6: Geographic Distribution of the Amazon Biocorridor in the Amazon Basin at the provincial, cantonal, and parish levels](#)
 - [Appendix 7: Technical Elements Included in the Conservation Commitments](#)
- **Environmental and Social Management System for the BCA Fund**

Failure to comply with the SGAS requirements will constitute grounds for disqualification of the proposal or suspension of the grant award process, as applicable.